

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

ASTOR LIBRARY.

Made to the Legislature January 26, 1854.

ALBANY:

C. VAN BENTHUYSEN, PRINTER TO THE LEGISLATURE,
No. 407 Broadway.

.....
1854.



IN ASSEMBLY, JAN. 26, 1854.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Trustees of Astor Library for the year 1853.

ASTOR LIBRARY, NEW-YORK, }
January, 25, 1854. }

TO THE HON. ROBERT H. PRUYN,

Speaker of the Assembly:

The trustees of the Astor Library beg leave respectfully to transmit their annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1853.

WASHINGTON IRVING, *President.*

SAMUEL B. RUGGLES, *Secretary.*

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REPORT.

The trustees of the Astor Library, in obedience to their act of incorporation, respectfully present to the Legislature, this, their fifth,

ANNUAL REPORT.

Since presenting their report to this Legislature in January, 1853, the library edifice has been completed. The books collected, being about 80,000 volumes, have been duly classified and systematically arranged on the shelves, and the library is open to the public. The actual use of the books will commence on the 1st of February.

The library having reached this stage of its existence, it may be useful briefly to recapitulate its history.

It was founded by JOHN JACOB ASTOR, of the city of New-York, who, by his will dated August 22d, 1839, bequeathed four hundred thousand dollars to establish and maintain it. This sum was payable in four annual instalments, dating from his death, which took place the 29th of March, 1848.

The will committed the management of the fund and of the library, to ten individual trustees, to wit : Washington Irving, Wm. B. Astor, Daniel Lord, James G. King, Joseph G. Cogswell, Fitz Greene Halleck, Henry Brevoort, Samuel B. Ruggles, Samuel Ward and Charles Astor Bristed, to the Chancellor of the State of New-York, and the Mayor of the city of New-York, *ex-officio*; and it empowered the trustees to fill any vacancies in their body.

Five vacancies have occurred since Mr. Astor's death. The office of Chancellor of the State has ceased to exist ; Messrs. Brevoort and King have died ; Mr. Halleck has resigned ; and Mr. Ward has removed from the State.

The Trustees have filled the four latter vacancies by electing Mr. John A. Dix, the Rev. Thomas House Taylor, D. D., Mr. Jas. Carson Brevoort, and Dr. Abraham V. Williams, M. D. ; and these gentlemen, with Messrs. Irving, Astor, Lord, Cogswell, Ruggles, and Bristed, and the Mayor of the city of New-York, *ex-officio*, now constitute the Board.

By the will of Mr. Astor, he directed the trustees to apply for an act of incorporation. On the meeting of the Legislature in January, 1849, the Governor of the State announced in his Message, that

“John Jacob Astor, a native of Germany, who lately died at an advanced age in the city of New-York, by his will has devoted the large, and in this country unprecedented amount, of four hundred thousand dollars, to the foundation and perpetual support of a library for the free use of the public. I cheerfully recommend,” says he, “the application of the trustees for an act of incorporation, to your enlightened encouragement. The foundation of such an institution cannot but be regarded as a striking event in the literary history of the State.”

The recommendation of the Governor was promptly carried into effect. The Legislature incorporated the trustees, by the act passed January 18th, 1849, being the first of the session.

Under this act, the trustees were legally organized on the 14th day of February, 1849, by electing from their own body Washington Irving, President, and Samuel B. Ruggles, Secretary.

They had previously chosen Mr. Joseph G. Cogswell superintendent of the library. In truth, Mr. Astor himself, during his life, had virtually selected Mr. Cogswell for that important post ; and it is but due alike to both to add, that the success of the library must be mainly attributed to the wisdom of that selection.

In respect to the bequest of \$400,000, the will of Mr. Astor directed, and the Legislature required the trustees to expend not exceeding \$75,000 in erecting the library building, and not exceeding \$120,000 in purchasing books, "with furniture and other things appertaining to a library for general use," and to invest the residue (\$205,000) "as a fund for paying the value of the site of the building, and for maintaining and gradually increasing the said library, and to defray the necessary expenses of taking care of the same, and of the accommodation of persons consulting the library."

The testator selected two sites from his lands in Astor Place and in Lafayette Place, one of which the trustees were to choose. The dimensions of each were the same, 65 feet in front and rear, and 120 feet in depth. The site, when chosen, was to be valued by his executors, and the amount of valuation deducted from the \$205,000. The trustees chose the site on La Fayette Place, and the executors valued it at \$25,000. Deducting this sum from the \$205,000, there remains \$180,000, the annual income of which is to be exclusively applied to the current expenses of the library, and its gradual increase.

After carefully considering numerous plans for the building proposed by different architects, and maturing the one finally adopted, some delay was experienced in obtaining contracts for finishing it, for the \$75,000 prescribed by the testator. The building was however completed for that sum, in the summer of 1853, the corner stone having been laid on the 14th day of March 1850. An additional expenditure of \$1590, for groined arches, which became desirable to render the building more secure from fire, was liberally borne by Mr. William B. Astor.

It was not practicable to include in this \$75,000, sundry items of expense for equipping the building, including apparatus for warming, ventilating and lighting, and the shelves needed for the books. The running length of the shelves is between twelve and thirteen thousand feet, and they have cost \$11,000. The aggregate of these various items of equipment is \$17,141.99. It has been paid mainly by surplus interest accruing from the funds while the building was in progress, amounting to \$16,000.53, and

the residue by a premium of \$3672.87, which was realized from the advance in value of U. S. stocks, in which a part of the funds was temporarily invested; so that, after paying in full for the building and its equipments, the fund of \$180,000 not only remains undiminished, but has been increased \$2530.88. It is wholly invested in mortgages, except \$3500 in U. S. stock, charged at par, but with 122 per cent in market. There is no interest in arrear on any of the mortgages.

Of the fund of \$120,000, specially devoted to the purchase of books, the trustees can not state with entire precision the amount expended up to December 31st, 1853, for the reason given in the treasurer's report, that several of the bills and accounts yet remain unliquidated. He states, however, the amount actually advanced by him to be \$91,513.83, and he estimates the unsettled bills at \$4500, making \$96,113.83 in all. This will leave an unexpended balance of \$23,886.17 applicable to further purchases of books, in addition to that part of the income of the \$180,000 to be annually devoted to the gradual increase of the library.

The number of volumes now purchased and on the shelves is about 80,000. The superintendent states that the expenditure of the remaining \$23,886.17 will probably increase the number to one hundred thousand.

It should, however, be understood that in these 80,000 volumes is included a large and very valuable donation of nearly 5000 volumes, made by Mr. Cogswell, embracing the whole department of bibliography, and including very many rare and costly works. A small portion of the books required for this department had been purchased at an early day, with the funds of the library; but Mr. Cogswell soon afterwards asked and was allowed the privilege of refunding that amount, and of paying for all the books required in that department himself. This he has done accordingly, and it explains the item of credit appearing in the treasurer's account as "*Donation from J. G. Cogswell \$1,029²/₁₀°.*" That sum, however, embraces but a small portion of the cost, and still less of the value of the books he has presented. It will be seen by his annual report, hereto annexed, that he prefers not to

state the cost ; and the trustees can therefore only report generally that his donation has founded one whole department in the library, and, to that large extent, has augmented the property confided to their care.

In the same connection they also report, that during the last year, Mr. William B. Astor has added to the pecuniary means of the library the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds sterling—by placing that amount at the disposal of Mr. Cogswell, for buying books for a special technological department, to embrace every branch of practical industry and the mechanic arts. Of this sum, between seven and eight thousand dollars has been already expended in books of that class, which are now on the shelves, ready for the use of the public.

The trustees cannot but hope that the Legislature will take pleasure in seconding these acts of enlightened liberality by such donations of documents, and books published by the State, as may extend still further the usefulness of a library free alike to all, and which seeks only to advance the industry, learning and research of the community.

In respect to the fitness of the building, and the character and cost of the books it contains, the trustees believe that the building is suitable to its purpose, and that the books have been judiciously selected and economically purchased.

A full, classified catalogue will best enable the Legislature to judge of the value of the books. Such a catalogue requires much time and labor, but it is in progress, and, when finished and printed, a copy will be duly transmitted.

Meanwhile, some idea may be obtained, both of the books and the building, from the following statements which the trustees have extracted from an account recently prepared by Mr. Cogswell.

The Astor Library is placed in a central and easily accessible situation. Lafayette place, on the east side of which it is built, communicates with the two great thoroughfares of the city—Broadway and the Bowery ; by Great Jones-street at the south, Astor place and Eighth-street at the north, and by Fourth-street

near the centre. A more appropriate site could not be found in New-York. The street has a refined, classic air, and is in a good degree exempt from the throng and noise and bustle of business streets. The contrast between it and Broadway is so striking in this respect, that it is difficult to comprehend that they are in such near proximity.

The library edifice is a plain structure of brick, raised upon a lower story of rustic ashler brown stone, somewhat more lofty than the neighboring buildings. The style of architecture is the Byzantine, and the front is rendered imposing by the deeply recessed arched doors and windows, the rich brown stone mouldings and mullions, and still more by the boldly projecting cornice, corbels, and entablature, all beautifully wrought in the same material. On opening the main entrance door, the eye falls at once upon a beautiful flight of thirty-six broad marble steps, leading between straight walls of solid mason work, to the second floor of the building, which is the main floor of the library proper. These stairs land the visitor at a point about the centre of the room, which is a hundred feet in length by sixty-four in width and fifty in height. A broad skylight, extending two-thirds its length, with a row of huge curved panes of glass on each side, and a double sash spreading nearly horizontally across the centre, pours in a flood of light from above, which, with that let in through the ten broad windows in front and eight in the rear, gives an uncommonly cheerful aspect to the apartment. It is really beautiful as it is, and will be much more so when the glare of its stucco ornaments, and of its gilded balustrades, become softened down by time. The internal arrangement is a very convenient one, and very economical of space. A series of seven alcoves or apartments, open in front and rear, fills up the space on each side from the side walls to the columns which support the roof, leaving corridors two and a half feet in width along the walls, by which a communication is established between the different parts of the library. On this plan, the capacity of the room for books is more than doubled; that is, for every fifty-one wall shelves, there are seventy-two in the alcoves. On no other could it be made to contain one hundred thousand volumes, as it is now ascertained it will. Each alcove has a light gallery,

eleven feet above the floor, to give easy access to the higher tier of shelves ; and these galleries, extended in front of the wall shelves, form a continued corridor from end to end. The room within the columns which support the roof, is open from floor to skylight, but divided into two stories between these columns and the outer walls. In the second story there is a series of alcoves exactly corresponding to that on the first, with similar galleries above. The part of the library which is divided into alcoves is separated from the open area in the centre by a light iron railing. This area is provided with reading tables, for those who wish to use the books, which are to be handed to them by the assistant librarians. The only part of the library above the first floor which has not been described, are two small rooms in the north-east corner, appropriated to the superintendent : these two rooms are not taken from the main building, but formed by carrying up a portion of the walls of the projection in the rear.

A little more than four years have now elapsed since the library edifice was begun, and it is not yet six months since it was completed. In this last interim, the books, now amounting to nearly eighty thousand volumes, have been classified, catalogued, and systematically arranged upon the shelves ; and in the same time a great deal of other labor incident to the preparation of a library has been done. This may seem a long time for accomplishing such a work, to those who have been waiting to use the books ; but it would be difficult to name a library of equal extent, that was ever put in order in less.

The number of volumes is now nearly eighty thousand : it is proper to add, that some thousands of these are double and triple volumes, bound together for the sake of economy. Had these remained as they were bought, the whole number would be considerably greater than it is.

The system of classification is that of Brunet, whose great work on Bibliography, entitled "*Manuel du Libraire*," is better, more complete, and more generally known than any similar publication. His system is by no means unexceptionable, but some chart is indispensable in arranging a library, and this is the best that has been given to the public.

The arrangement begins with Theology. In this department the Astor Library has three thousand seven hundred and fifty-two volumes, including the best editions of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, the Walton Polyglott, various editions of the Vulgate, and numerous versions of the whole Bible, and of parts of it, in the principal languages of Europe and the East. The collection of the Fathers is full, but not absolutely complete, and contains most of the Benedictine editions, the *Bibliotheca Maxima* of Despont, the *Patres Apostolici* of Cotelierius, and many others of this class of less note. It is equally well provided with works on the Councils, including Colet's edition of Labbé, in twenty-nine volumes; the *Concilia Maxima*, in thirty-seven volumes folio; Beveridge's *Synodicon*, Lorenzana, *Concilianos provinciales*, &c. It is also respectable in scholastic, dogmatic, parenetic and polemic theology, including the early and more recent English divines in the best editions.

Jurisprudence forms the second department, which numbers three thousand one hundred and seven volumes. In this, the object has been to provide those works which are rarely found here, rather than to form a complete law library. The collection is good on the civil law, embracing various editions of the *Corpus Juris*, and commentaries upon it; it contains, also, all the codes of Scandinavia, and of other parts of Europe, during the middle ages; the system of jurisprudence as now practised in Italy, Portugal, Germany, Denmark and Sweden; the *Fueros siete Partidas* and *Recopilaciones* of Spain, together with the digests and commentaries on the Musselman, Hindoo, Gentoo and Chinese laws. In French law, the library is really rich, beginning with the *Ordonnances des Reis*, and coming down to the very latest volume of the *Journal du Palais*. The selection for the English common law was made by two of the most eminent jurists in the country: it is not large, but very choice. In this department, the most prominent deficiency is in American law; and for that a whole alcove has been reserved, to be filled up as soon as practicable.

The next department is that of Sciences and Arts, in which, of course, medical science is included; and as it occupies an alcove adjoining jurisprudence, this is the proper place to introduce it.

The number of volumes in the medical department of the library is only 1,751. This, as a specialty, is so well provided for in the hospital and other medical libraries of the city, it was thought less important to make a full collection of medical books here. It is also a specialty in which there are many books not suited to a general public library ; but full justice will be done for the department when it is known what should be done. Medical gentlemen have only to say what books are wanting, to be sure of their being provided.

The Natural Sciences form another division of this department, and this is one of the richest and best furnished in the library. It is necessarily very costly, as naturalists will readily understand, when they know it contains such works as the "*Palmarum Genera et Species of Martius*," in a colored copy ; "*Plantæ Asiaticæ Rariores of Wallich*," "*Rooburgh's Plants of the Coast of Coromandel*," a complete set of "*Gould's Birds of Europe, Australia, Himelayas Toucans ; and Trogons*" "*Illustrations Conchyliologiques par Chenu*," "*Audubon's Birds of America*," "*Sibthorp's Flora Græca*," "*Lambert's Genus Pinus*," and at least a hundred other volumes of the same character. The whole number of volumes embraced in it is four thousand two hundred and forty-nine.

The third division of sciences and arts is that of Chemistry and Physics ; to which, from the intimate relation it bears to them, may be added that of the Useful Arts or Polytechnics. The transactions of societies for the promotion of science and arts may also be assigned to it. These collections contain so many memoirs and papers of prime importance to practical men, as well as to men of science, which are published in no other form, that it was deemed necessary to have them as complete as possible in the library. This desideratum is now nearly attained. We have the publications of the principal societies in Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Russia, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, and also of the United States, amounting altogether to more than two thousand volumes, principally quartos. It will be a leading object of the library to provide a complete "*Bibliothèque Industrielle*," or collection of books for

the special benefit of practical industry. A convenient and commodious room will be prepared for it on the first floor of the building, in which every accommodation will be afforded to those who wish to consult it. It was not possible to make this arrangement in time for the opening of the library; but it will soon be done. The books which appertain to it now amount to nearly five thousand volumes.

In the order of classification, the Metaphysical and Ethical Sciences precede the Natural; but it was found necessary, in the arrangement of the library, to make a deviation, and place the last named first. The class now referred to includes general philosophical treatises, works on intellectual and moral philosophy, and the application of the latter to education, politics, and political economy. The books on these subjects now belonging to the library amount to fifteen hundred volumes: the addition of about an equal number would complete the department.

Next in order are the Mathematical Sciences, of which the Astor Library has a first rate collection. It is rich, not only in pure mathematics, but also in all the applied: in astronomy, mechanics, hydraulics, engineering it is very full, and not deficient in military tactics. It has drawn largely upon the libraries of several celebrated mathematicians for books to form it, such as Halley's and Legendre's, which were greatly enriched by Mr. S. Ward, after they were bought by him; also Jacobi's and the two Heiligenstadts, of Berlin. To these have since been added the most important mathematical works more recently published in Europe and America. A very competent judge, who is a resident in Berlin, considers the collection as more complete than that of the Royal Library there; and although this opinion may not be altogether correct, it is undoubtedly entitled to be ranked with the first mathematical libraries abroad. The number of volumes contained in it may be put down at five thousand. Besides full collections of all the published works of Euler and Gauss, it has several unpublished manuscripts of these great mathematicians; all the mathematical journals; all the works of Newton, Leibnitz, the Bernouillis, Laplace, Delambre, Lacroix, Legendre, Lagrange, Jacobi, Abel, etc.; the astronomical observations

generally, and a very large number of mathematical dissertations and papers, which are not easily found.

Following upon this division is that of the Arts; and as an account of the books on polytechnics has already been given in connection with chemistry, those on the fine arts only remain to be described. No part of a library requires so much money as this, as it consists mostly of books of plates and engravings, which are generally large and expensive folios. Still, it is too important to be curtailed, and the collection in the Astor Library will be found not to have been so treated. In the four branches of the Fine Arts proper, and including Archæology, which cannot be separated from ancient art, there are in the collection about twenty-five hundred volumes, upon the first fifty of which two thousand nine hundred and seventy-five dollars were expended. To verify this statement we name the fifty volumes, premising that they are all large folios, fully bound in red morocco, in the most finished style, except six, which are half bound. A complete set of "Piranesi's Antiquities," proof plates, twenty-eight in twenty-one volumes; "Musée Français et Royale," proof plates before the letter, six volumes; Raphael's "Loggia of the Vatican," engraved by Volpato, and exquisitely colored by hand, in the exact style of the originals, three volumes; a complete set of the "Greco-Asian Antiquities," thirteen volumes; Gruner's "Fresco Decorations of Italy," colored by hand in the same style as "Raphael's Loggia," one volume, and "Lepsius's Denkmaler aus Ægypten," six volumes.

Our next general division is Literature or *Belles Lettres*, beginning with languages. In books on languages the library is strong, perhaps we might say very strong: its linguistic apparatus would do credit to a much older institution. It has grammars and dictionaries of one hundred and four different languages, and numerous vocabularies of the rude unwritten ones. It has also chrestomathies, and other usual facilities for studying them. All the families and branches of the European languages, and a greater part of those of Asia and Africa, are represented in the collection. It contains the best works on the Egyptian hieroglyphics, the Cuneiform inscriptions, and the other curious records of the

ancient nations of the East, which recent discoveries have brought to light. It has also the best of the vocabularies of the different dialects of the Mexican and South American Indians, which were collected and published by the early Spanish missionary priests. Books of this last class have become excessively rare, and consequently dear. A perfect copy of Molina's "*Arte de la Lengua Mexicana*," cannot be had for less than fifty dollars; and Rincon's Grammar of the same language, a mean little duodecimo, bound, or rather done up in limp vellum, which few would accept as a gift, costs much more than its weight in gold. This sort of books makes large drafts upon the funds of a library, without adding much either to its volumes or its appearance; but they must be had. In the Oriental collection there are two works, which must be so rare in this country, that it may be important to describe them; and these are the "*Seven Seas: a Dictionary and Grammar of the Persian Language*," in seven volumes, folio, by the late King of Oude, which was printed in his palace; and the "*Sabda Kalpa Druma of the Rajah Radhakant Deb*," a Sanscrit dictionary, in seven volumes, folio—the last two not yet received. Neither of these works was printed for sale: several copies of the first were sent as presents to the East India Company in London, one of which we have; and the second was intended only for presents to the native and English pundits. Our copy was one which was presented to the Rev. W. Morton, author of a Bengali and English dictionary, at whose death it was sold. The whole linguistic collection numbers two thousand and one hundred volumes.

In the other divisions of literature, the classification is made first according to language, and then in each language the subdivisions are more or less minute in proportion as the works are numerous. The history of each literature is found with it; and first of Greek and Latin literature. This is neither a very strong nor a weak department of the library; it is just about as it ought to be, to stand neither above nor below its fair proportion. It contains a copy of one or more editions of all the authors of note in both languages. When it has one edition only, the most approved has uniformly been selected. Of the authors of the high-

est rank, several editions in all cases have been provided. There are, for instance, more than a dozen different Homers—among them the *princeps* of 1488; half as many of the Greek tragedians, of Pindar, of Demosthenes, of Herodotus, of Thucydides, and all of that class. So in Latin there are twelve Virgils, quite as many Horaces, half as many Ovids and Ciceros, and Livys, and Plinys. The whole number of volumes, in both languages, with the *apparatus criticus* pertaining to them, is three thousand one hundred. In Spanish and Portuguese literature, the number of volumes is six hundred and seventy-three; the Italian, though not fuller in proportion, has one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. In coming to the French, we find a still more copious literature; in this the library has three thousand one hundred and one volumes. German literature is of a more recent growth than either of those previously named; of the fourteen hundred volumes in this language of the class of *belles lettres*, certainly one thousand must be the productions of the present century, and not above one hundred anterior to the middle of the last. In Dutch literature we have brought together one hundred and fifty-six volumes, including the immortal Cats, in various forms and sizes; Vondel, Feith, the publications of the Bataafsche Maatschappij, the Maatschappij der Nederlandsche Letterkunde te Leiden, the Hollandsche Maatschappij van Fraije Kunsten en Wetenschappen, and of the Vereeniging ter Bevordering der Oude Nederlandsche Letterkunde.

The collection of Scandinavian literature, distinct from the Sagas and other historical works, amounts to eight hundred and nine volumes. In the Hungarian, and in the Slavonic languages collectively, we have only forty-one.

It may be feared, perhaps, that in this confusion of languages, the mother tongue has been forgotten; but that is not the case, we have come at last to the pure well of English undefiled. In the collection of English literature, very few of the works of much value will be found wanting. It is not as large as it might easily be made; but it has its full proportion, and cannot rightly claim to be made absolutely complete at the expense of the others. It

now numbers three thousand four hundred volumes, more than three hundred of which are exclusively Shaksperian literature. It should be borne in mind that a large portion of every department in the library, except that of literature, consists of books in the English language ; so that it is fair to conclude that more than one-half of the whole could be read by those who know no other. To this it may be added, that in collecting books for a library which aims to be a good and a great one, the proper question is, what is the merit of a work, and not in what language it is written.

The Historical department is the last in the order of classification. This department is fuller perhaps than any other, with the exception of mathematics, languages and bibliography. It constitutes a fourth part at least of the whole library. With a few exceptions, it is arranged in the series of alcoves extending on the main floor, from the southeast to the southwest corner. Works on chronology, diplomatics, numismatics, heraldry, inscriptions and antiquities, are regarded as introductions to the right understanding of history, and are placed in the first alcove, with general biographical dictionaries and universal history. Biography does not form a class by itself ; but is placed either with the civil or literary history to which it belongs. Geography, for the more convenient use of maps and charts, is placed in the second floor ; and voyages and travels, as most intimately connected with the discovery and history of America, are placed in immediate proximity to it, instead of preceding the historical collection, as they usually do.

Ecclesiastical History is appended to Theology. This account has already been extended too far to allow the details to be continued. It can only be stated generally, that the historical divisions are in the usual way, and that when it was necessary to bring the history of more than one country into the same alcove, regard was had to the connection which had existed between them in the past. Thus, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian History are together ; French occupies a whole alcove ; German, Dutch and Belgian are together in an alcove, and with them Scandinavian and Russian ; English, Scotch and Irish History fills another al-

cove. Asiatic and African History, for want of room below, is placed on the second floor, in an alcove with oriental literature; the latter, including the Chinese, number seven hundred volumes.

To the American Historical department, a larger space in the library has been assigned than to any other, because it is intended to make this the most complete. The collection already formed contains most of the early Spanish writers; the early voyages, the accounts of the first colonists, the various histories of the War of Independence, and the older books generally. In the more modern ones, there are many deficiencies to be supplied. Not in American History only, but also in American Literature, it is hoped that the library will, sooner or later, be made complete. It now numbers three thousand four hundred and seven volumes, making, in all the divisions of history, twenty thousand three hundred and fifty volumes.

At the end of his system of classification, Brunet has a sort of appendix, which he calls *Paralipomenes Historiques*, where he places Bibliography and Literary History. It would certainly be quite as philosophical an arrangement to regard books of this class as introductions, for they are indispensable to the knowledge of all others. For this reason, and for the convenience of those who have charge of the library, they have this place assigned to them in our arrangement. The collection is very full in both of these classes, particularly in the former, in which scarcely one important work is wanting. The number of volumes contained in them, is four thousand six hundred, which is exclusive of the special literary history of the different countries.

In the classification of the Astor library there are various minor subdivisions which could not be specified; and there is a large number of miscellaneous and polygraphic writers, and of duplicates which have not been included in the foregoing computations. These, altogether, amount to five thousand volumes.

The library possesses a complete collection of English Parliamentary Journals, Debates and Reports. These amount to more than two thousand volumes, chiefly folios: the long room on the

left of the main entrance door, has been taken for them, and for other like European documents ; added to those just named, the number is now two thousand eight hundred and eighty volumes. The corresponding room on the right will be appropriated to American Public Documents of the United States, and of the individual States. This use of them will in no wise interfere with their being used as reading rooms, should they be needed for that purpose. The present arrangement for reading is at the tables in the main library room.

The regulations which have been adopted for the use of the library by the public, will be found appended to the present report.

The trustees earnestly wish to render the library as accessible and convenient as may be consistent with the due safety and preservation of the books, and they will at all times afford any reasonable facilities to those who may resort to it for the purposes of study ; but the interest of the readers themselves plainly requires the trustees to save from their annual income an amount sufficient to keep up, in some degree, with the new publications constantly appearing in the different languages, and they must therefore restrain their current expenses within reasonable limits.

For the present, they have ~~five~~ fixed the hours of access daily (except Sundays and established holidays) from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M., but may vary those hours hereafter, if experience shall prove it to be necessary or expedient.

In respect to the fundamental policy of making the library one only of reference, and not a lending library, the trustees entirely concur in the views presented by Mr. Cogswell in his report hereto annexed. As he well observes, the public will resort to the library with confidence, when they are sure not only that it has all the books that are wanted, but that they are not lent out.

A list of the donations of books received during the year 1853 (other than those received from Mr. Cogswell and Mr. Astor, and above-mentioned) is also annexed, together with the annual re-

port of the Treasurer, Daniel Lord, Esq., exhibiting the condition of the funds and securities, up to the 31st of December, 1853, and the receipts and expenditures during the year.

All which is respectfully submitted.

WASHINGTON IRVING,

President.

SAMUEL B. RUGGLES,

Secretary.

ASTOR LIBRARY, *New-York, Jan. 26th, 1854.*

REGULATIONS

For the use of the Astor Library, adopted by the Trustees, November 30, 1853.

1. That on Monday, the 9th of January next, the library be opened to the public; notice of which to be given in two of the city newspapers, two weeks previous.

2. That for the first month it be opened for visitors only, and not for the use of the books until the first of February.

3. That it be kept open daily (except Sundays and established holidays) from 10 o'clock A. M. until 5 o'clock P. M.

4. That it be used for reading and reference, and not as a lending library. Admission to be free to all persons of more than fourteen years of age, who do not violate the prescribed regulations.

5. Visitors are not admitted inside of the railing, and books are not to be removed from the shelves, except by the attendants of the library.

The manner in which they are to be obtained by readers, is as follows:

They are furnished with printed blanks, on which they are to write the title of the book wanted, with their own name at the bottom of the ticket. This ticket is to be handed to one of the assistants, whose duty it will be to put the book before the applicant as promptly as possible. The reader, on leaving the library, must return the book or books which he has been using, to an attendant, and take back his ticket.

6. Large books of plates, and those of great value on account of rarity or otherwise, can only be used under the direction of one of the attendants of the library.

7. The general regulations for the information of readers and visitors, to be printed on the back of the book tickets, which are as follows :

One book only to be asked for on the same ticket.

Titles of books to be written distinctly, to prevent mistakes or delay.

Readers to return their books and take back their tickets before leaving the library.

No book to be taken away under any circumstances.

Dogs not to be brought into the library

Smoking, in every part of the building, prohibited.

REPORT

Of Joseph G. Cogswell, Superintendent of the Astor Library.

The Superintendent of the Astor Library respectfully submits to the trustees of the institution the following report of his proceedings in relation to it, during the years 1852 and 1853.

In my last report to the Board, the statement of purchases of books for the library was brought down to the end of the year 1851. The number of volumes which had then been collected was estimated at 55,000, including those I had bought in Europe during my visit there in that year. These last, which amounted to more than 28,000 volumes, came in from abroad during the spring, summer, and autumn of 1852; and it required this whole period of diligent labor to unpack them, verify the invoices, classify and arrange them on shelves in the house in Bond-street, which was temporarily used for that purpose.

Much of this labor would have been saved, could it have been anticipated that the new library building would not be ready when the house was to be given up.

In November of that year, I laid before the Board a copy of the printed index, which had been prepared as a guide in forming the library, marked so as to show what books contained in it had been procured, and a manuscript catalogue of several thousand additional volumes not found in it. These two documents formed a complete inventory of all the books belonging to the library at the above date.

By that time it had become evident that the library in Lafayette Place would not be in a condition to receive books for many months to come, and I was then authorised, by a vote of the

board, to return again to Europe, to make further purchases of books to the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars.

In accordance with this vote, I embarked on the 27th of Nov., 1852, and remained abroad until the following March. One month of the four being required for the passage out and home, it left me but three, and those in the depth of winter, for the accomplishment of the objects.

This time was divided between London, Paris, Brussels, Hamburg and Berlin, in either of which cities the whole might have been spent to the advantage of the library.

The number of volumes bought and ordered in these several places was twenty-five thousand, including a mathematical library of about three thousand volumes, bought in Berlin, and a philosophical and miscellaneous one of between four and five thousand, bought in Florence.

Twenty thousand dollars of the disposable fund was reserved, to be applied to the purchase of such books as might appear, on examination of the library now formed, to be most wanted.

I have before suggested that we should learn what we *most* want, in the surest way, from reports on the respective departments, by gentlemen most versed in them. These reports would furnish the best guides in increasing the library, for some time to come.

According to my minutes, I have expended, at home and abroad, on account of the library for books and binding, since Mr. Astor's death, \$89,693.31; to this must be added about \$3,000, expended during his life time, and \$7,500 received from another source, which will be explained below. This aggregate of \$100,000 gives the library, for its outset, a collection of books, respectable in number of volumes, and more than respectable in character. There can scarcely be a doubt that when the residue of the sum set apart in Mr. Astor's will, for the purchase of books in establishing the library, shall be expended, it will number one hundred thousand volumes at least.

I trust I shall not be understood as implying that the real worth of a library is to be estimated by its number of volumes, which is very like estimating a farm by its number of acres. Use and time are the only certain tests of the value of a library.

There are but few general libraries in this country which have been formed upon system, and here, in this great city especially, one was needed, to supply before existing deficiencies : one that would enable the scientific enquirer to track the progress of knowledge and discovery to its last step ; to furnish to the mechanic arts and practical industry in general, the help and guidance required from books ; to make the artist familiar with the history, character and style of the great masters of his art ; to call up to the student the past, in all the wide range of imagination and thought, and provide the best and healthiest intellectual food for the minds of all ages and classes.

If this is the character of the Astor library, it is such an one as the founder intended to establish. Not a book was bought for it, during his life time, that was not of this description, and every one that was bought had his sanction. The number was not great, but sufficient to show what sort of a library he intended to create. Can any one suppose, that such books as *Audubon's Birds of America*, *Montfaucon's Antiquities*, *Dumont's Cours de Droit*, the *Writings of the Fathers*, *Britton's Architectural Antiquities* ; the first, second and third editions of *Erasmus' Greek Testament*, the *Princeps Pausanias*, the *Transactions of the Society of Arts*, and the *Parliamentary Journals*, were to make part of a popular library ?

But all these, and others of the same stamp, were bought under Mr. Astor's direction and approval. It is certain, both from what he said and what he did, that he had in view the lasting welfare and progressive improvement, and not the mere momentary gratification of the community, in founding the library which bears his name. Had it been nothing more than a reading-room, or a circulating library, which he intended, he would never have wasted such munificence upon it : a tithe of the sum would have more than sufficed.

Besides, all such libraries are the proper concerns of clubs and societies formed for that express purpose, and to be managed as they see fit.

It is important that the character of this institution should be fixed at the beginning. Every measure in connexion with it has been taken on the ground of its being a library for reference and consultation, and not a lending or a miscalled popular one. It is equally free to the poorest and to the wealthiest, for the use to which it is adapted.

By our excellent system of free schools and free academies, instruction in its widest scope is enjoyed by every child in the land; and whence can the knowledge necessary for imparting that instruction be drawn, if there are no fountain-heads, at which the teachers can drink? But for the Croton dam and the reservoirs supplied by means of it, how many thousands in this great metropolis would now be thirsty for a draught of water? In the same way, great reservoirs of science and learning are indispensable for feeding the streams, which diffuse the blessings of knowledge through every dwelling, as well the humblest as the proudest.

When a library is known to have rare and valuable books, which cannot elsewhere be found, all who are in want of such books will resort to it, so long as it is a certainty not only that the books wanted belong to the library, but also that they are not lent out.

Until libraries of this character are more numerous in this country, the only way of making them most extensively serviceable is to keep the books where they are sure to be found, and can be consulted readily. No large library, filled with the popular reading books of the day, could sustain itself fifty years, unless its means were unlimited. All the works of that class would require to be renewed every four or five years, and inevitable bankruptcy would be the end of the institution.

It must be the wish, as it is the duty, of the trustees of the Astor Library, to make it as widely and as generally useful as possible, and they only are the constituted judges of the proper mode

of effecting it. A free public library is a new thing here, and some practical experience is required before a final plan of operations can be fixed upon. Experiment and observation will doubtless develop improvements which may be necessary.

It is not unreasonable to ask for that confidence and co-operation on the part of the public, which will enable the trustees to complete the organization of the institution, and place it on a basis of permanent usefulness, combined with the readiest accommodation to all who wish to avail themselves of its privileges. To meet what was understood to be a general wish, it was opened prematurely; and without much patient indulgence of those who resort to it, the work which remains for providing all necessary facilities cannot be perfected.

In forming this library, it has not been forgotten that it is designed for a general and not a special one: hence it is not to be expected that it will be found complete in any one department; at the same time, I may assert that not one will prove absolutely meagre.

The next step is to ascertain what deficiencies are first to be made up, and what facilities are now afforded for doing this, by the present classification and arrangement. An hour or two's examination of a department, by a person conversant with its literature, would disclose to him what is still most requisite in it, and in this way the whole library might soon be brought to an uniform condition of completeness.

There would still be much that could not be done, without greater means than the library has at command. As its importance and usefulness become more and more manifest, the desire for its increase will become more general; the studies and tastes of different individuals will lead them to take special interest in one or other of the departments, and provide for its completion. Something in this way was done for the department of bibliography, when the library began to be formed. The privilege is now claimed by Mr. William B. Astor, of taking another under his special protection. When I was in Europe the last time, he opened for me a credit of two thousand five hundred pounds, for the

purchase of books, to form a special technological library, embracing every branch of practical industry and the mechanic arts. Between seven and eight thousand dollars of this sum were expended in books of that class, which, together with those of the same kind before bought, form an extensive collection in this department.

As this is a department which requires a good deal of room for its convenient use, I would suggest to the trustees that the large room on the first floor, known as the lecture room, should be appropriated to it, and shelving put up for arranging it. This plan would gain, in the principal library saloon, a large space for the additions which must soon come into it.

During the last two years the Bibliographical department has been much increased, and including general literary history, which is annexed to it, now forms a library not much short of five thousand volumes. This having been collected at my own charge, I cannot be called upon to render an account of its cost, which is to me the most agreeable circumstance in connection with it. I would as soon tell a child, if I had one, how much I had expended upon his education, as allow a thought of money to have any part in my interest in the Astor Library.

As respects catalogues, the present state of things is as follows: The perpetual catalogue, which is so planned as never to require any other change than that of being enlarged with the increase of the library, is now completed, and, as soon as it can be revised and compared with the titles in the books, may be transcribed for printing. It is made on separate slips, and kept in boxes of the form and appearance of books. Such a catalogue is, of course, only fit for the use of the officers of the library. I propose, if it meets the approbation of the trustees, to take up the library by departments, and prepare a classed catalogue, to be printed as each department is completed: in the mean while, the printed index, and the two additional catalogues in manuscript, will answer for immediate use.

The accompanying list of donations to the library during the year 1853, shows an increasing interest in its progress. When it is

more generally understood, that by giving a book to the library it is placing it where it will be most useful and best known, the annual list of donations will doubtless be much larger than it now is.

I cannot conclude this report without making known to the trustees how deeply the library is indebted to Messrs. Goodhue & Co., for their trouble in taking charge of our books as they arrived from abroad, and passing them through the custom house. All this has been done without compensation, and the trouble must have been very great, as more than four hundred cases have come through their hands, often singly, and rarely more than four or five at once. Were a like respect for books, and a like regard for public improvement generally predominant, what a glorious library would this soon become!

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. COGSWELL,

Superintendent of the Library.

January 25, 1854.

Donations to the Astor Library, 1853.

Histoire naturelle des îles Canaries, par Barker, Webb et Berthelot.

9 vols. royal 4^o, and atlas in folio; richly half bound in red morocco.

12 volumes of miscellaneous French works.

By HECTOR BOSSANGE of Paris.

New-York State documents. 27 volumes.

253 miscellaneous books and pamphlets.

By GULIAN C. VERPLANCK.

United States public documents. 80 volumes.

New-York State documents. 107 volumes.

Laws of the State of New-York. 26 volumes.

Annals of Education, 1-4. 4 volumes.

Report of the Prison Discipline Society, 1826-32.

A collection of miscellaneous pamphlets, reports, &c.

By J. A. Dix.

History of the American Revolution, by G. Bancroft, vols. 1, 2.

History of the American Revolution, by G. Bancroft; American edition, vol. 1.

History of the American Revolution, by G. Bancroft, translated into Italian by Cavenzi. Vol. 1.

Baldinucci. Notizie di professori del disegno da Cimabue. 24 vols. 4^o.

Baldinucci. Arte del intagliare in varne.

Muratori. Annali d'Italia. 12 vols. in 24. 8^o.

Granelli. Prediche quaresimale. 4^o.

Tourtelle. Principles of Health, translated by G. Williamson.

Cushing (Miss). Letters from France and Spain. 2 vols. 12^o.

Greisbach. Symbolæ criticæ. 2 vols. 12^o.

Potter (A.) and Emerson (G. B.). School and Schoolmaster. 2 vols. 12^o.

Maury (S. M.). Englishwoman in America. Statesmen of America.

Sedgwick (T.). Public and Private Economy. Part II.

Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania. 2 vols. 8^o.

Trescot (W. H.). The Diplomacy of the Revolution.

May (T. E.). On Public Business in Parliament.

Books and pamphlets on miscellaneous subjects. 13 volumes.

By GEORGE BANCROFT.

Piltur og Strilka, an Icelandic romance, by Thordarson.

Sunnan-Posturinn, an Icelandic newspaper, 1835, 1836, 1838.

Accounts of Scandinavian Student-meetings, in Swedish.

Regulations of the University Library of Upsal, in Swedish.

Catalogues of the Icelandic, and of the British and French MSS. in the royal library at Stockholm.

Catalogue of the Cathedral Library at Strengnäs, Sweden.

Eviks-visan, an old Swedish poem, edited by Sæve.

The Old Testament and 3 other books in the language of Greenland.

Annals of the Swedes on the Delaware, by J. C. Clay.

By DANIEL W. FISKE.

The American Print-works vs. Cornelius W. Lawrence. 2 copies.

By HENRY E. DAVIES.

Description of a Skeleton of the Mastodon giganteus of North America, by D. C. Warren, M. D. 4^o.

By the AUTHOR.

Statements of the Claims of W. T. G. Morton to the discovery of the anæsthetic properties of ether, submitted to Congress.

By W. T. G. MORTON.

Patent Office reports for 1851-52. 3 vols. 8^o.

By the Commissioner of Patents.

General History of voyages and travels, by Du Perier.

Report of the Geological Survey of Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, by D. D. Owen. 4^o.

By Dr. F. L. HAWKS.

Consumptive Guide to health, by J. H. Potter. 2 copies.

By the Author.

Chronica gestorum in Europa singularium a P. Piasecio.

By M. ZABRISKIE.

Liber numerum publicorum Hiberniæ, ab anno 1152 usque ad annum 1827. 2 vols. folio.

By EDWARD ELLICE, of London.

Remarks on a reprint of the original letters from Washington to Joseph Reed, by Jared Sparks.

By the AUTHOR.

New-York Journal and Patriotic Register, 1796-97. Folio.

New-York Herald, from Feb. 1802 to June 1804. Folio.

By GEORGE HAYWARD.

Memorials of Oxford, by James Ingram and J. le Keux. 3 vols. 4°.

By J. H. PARKER, of Oxford, England.

Discovery and Colonization of America, a lecture, by E. Everett.

Addresses at the inauguration of the Rev. Jas. Walker.

Patent Office Reports, 1852-53. 2 vols. 8°.

Congressional Globe, Thirty-second Congress, with appendix. 2 vols.

By EDWARD EVERETT.

History and Genealogy of the Davenport family in England and America, from 1086 to 1850, by A. B. Davenport, of the twenty-sixth generation.

By the AUTHOR.

The Philosophy of Unbelief.—Uses of Adversity.—Christian Life.—Thoughts and Maxims.—The Portion of the Soul. By Heman Hooker.

R. W. GRISWOLD.

Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. New series, vol. 5, P. I.

By the ACADEMY.

Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge. Part V.

Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Regents.

By the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Library.

Fifth and Sixth Annual Reports on the State Cabinet of Natural History.

By the REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Reports of the Directors of the Mercantile Library Association of St. Louis.

By the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

A volume of scarce tracts, by Dryden and others.

By J. C. BREVOORT.

Gentle Shepherd, by Allan Ramsay. 4°.

Maxims of Rochefoucauld. 4°.

By W. GOWAN.

The Life of Esther de Berdt, afterwards Esther Reed of Philadelphia.

By W. B. REED, of Philadelphia.

Annals of Newton, Queens Co., N. Y., by J. Riker, Jr.

Histoire de Herodote, trad. par Miot. 3 vols. 8°.

Essay on the Archæology of Popular Phrases, by J. B. Kerr. 2 vols. 18°.

Lucrèce, traduit par Lagrange. 2 vols. 12°.

By HENRY ONDERDONK, JR.

View of the Coinage of Ireland from the Invasion, by John Lindsay, of Cork. 4°.

View of the Coinage of the Heptarchy, by John Lindsay. 4°.

View of the Coinage of Scotland, by John Lindsay. 4°.

Notice of Remarkable Mediæval Coins, by John Lindsay. 4°.

View of the History and Coinage of the Parthians, by John Lindsay. 4°.

By the AUTHOR.

A Disquisition on Government, and a Discussion on the Constitution and Government of the U. S., by John C. Calhoun.

By the LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Pharmacopeia of the United States.

By the NATIONAL MEDICAL CONVENTION.

Ouplvey Kapesni Slownik.

Deje Zeme Ceske.

Anleitung zur Erlernung der vier Slavischen Hauptsprachen, von
R. A. Frölich.

Anleitung zur Erlernung der Cechisch-Slavischen Sprache, von
J. N. Konecny. 2 vols. 8°.

Optische Untersuchungen von Grunert.

Osservazioni concernenti la Geologia della Toscana dei Professori
Savi e Meneghine. 8°.

By WOLCOT GIBBS.

Lomazzi. Rime. 4°.

Lami. Rime spirituale. 4°.

Rainero. Cento sonetti. 4°.

Adami. Poesie. 8°.

Benedetto Fioventino. Opere. 8°.

Varano. Divertimenti poetici. 12°.

Carcano. Morte del Conte Imbonati. 4°.

Celio Magno. Canzone spirituale. 4°.

Cava. Jesus puer.

By CHOQUET.

Memoirs of the Rev. Adoniram Judson, by F. Wayland.

By the AUTHOR.

Statistical and Historical Documents of Brown University, Providence, R. I.

By the TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Address at the 200th Anniversary of Lancaster, Mass., by Joseph Willard.

By the AUTHOR.

Catalogue of the Library of the Providence Athenæum.

By the DIRECTION OF THE ATHENÆUM.

Catalogue of the Library of the Young Men's Association, Albany.

By the DIRECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

Argument of W. W. Hubbell in Winans vs. Eaton.

By N. RANDALL.

Voyages from Holland to America 1632 to 1644, by D. P. Vries.
Translated by H. C. Murphy.

By JAMES LENOX.

Culpepper's Family Physician, enlarged by Jas. Scammon. 12°.
Pleasures and Pains of the Student's Life; two poems, by S.
Gilman. 4°.

A Collection of College Words and Customs. 12°.

By JOHN T. PERRY.

Aner (A.), Sprachenhalle. Das Vater-unser in mehr als Sechshundert Sprachen und Mundarten. Folio.

By Prof. ANER, of Vienna.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

*Statement of the Condition of the Funds and Property of the Trustees
of the Astor Library, Dec. 31, 1853.*

DR.

For the endowment fund for the building,.....	\$75,000 00	
Establishing the library,	120,000 00	
Maintaining, &c., and paying for the site,	205,000 00	
	<hr/>	\$400,000 00
Donation from J. G. Cogswell,.....		1,029 90
Interest acc't, balance 1852, Dec. 31,	\$4,885 30	
do do 1853, Dec. 31,	11,115 25	
	<hr/>	16,000 55
Premium account balance,.....		3,672 87
W. Langdon and others, for price of site and its increase from income,		31,774 26
Cash balance, since paid for receipts 1854,		210 18
		<hr/>
		\$452,687 76
		<hr/> <hr/>

CR.

For real estate, the site,.....	\$25,000 00	
For the building,.....	76,220 99	
	<hr/>	\$100,220 99
Books establishing the library :		
Amount liquidated,.....	\$75,214 29	
Advances to Mr. Cogswell, laid out in books, not adjusted,	15,299 54	
	<hr/>	91,513 83
Equipment of the building :		
Shelving,	\$11,000 00	
Warming and ventilating apparatus,	984 50	
Glass roof, lighting,	3,930 87	

Painting,.....	\$600 00	
Iron railing, &c., interior,	587 12	
Grate, iron shutters,	39 50	
	<hr/>	\$17,141 99
Bonds and mortgages,.....	\$201 500	
U.S. stock of 1847, at par (worth 122),	3,500 00	
	<hr/>	205,000 00
Expenditures, including half year's rent, freights, marine insurances, &c.,		7,036 69
Funds in the hands of the executors of J. J. Astor, deceased, retained to meet payment for the site, and increase thereon,		31,774 26
		<hr/>
		\$452,687 76
		<hr/> <hr/>

DAN'L LORD, *Treasurer.*

STATEMENT

*Of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Trustees of the Astor
Library, in 1853.*

Receipts.

Jan'y.	Cash in bank per last report,	\$2,584 69	
	Interest received this month, .	1,132 50	
		<hr/>	\$3,717 19
March.	Interest,		1,555 00
April.	Part of instalment from estate of Mr. Astor,	\$27,510 16	
	Interest on bonds and mortg's,	510 00	
		<hr/>	28,020 16
May.	Interest on bonds and mortgages,		300 00
June.	Interest,	\$1,465	
	Cash re-drawn from Baring, Bro. & Co.,	2,809 35	
		<hr/>	4,274 35
July.	Interest, bonds and mortgages and U. S. stock (\$4500),		547 50
August.	Interest,	\$1,840 00	
	U. S. stock sold,	1,219 13	
		<hr/>	3,059 13
Sept'r.	Interest,		2,087 33
Oct'r.	Interest,		510 00
Nov'r.	Interest,		300 00
Dec'r.	Interest,	\$1,167 44	
	do U. S. stock (\$3500),	105 00	
		<hr/>	1,272 44
			<hr/>
			\$45,643 10
			<hr/> <hr/>

Expenditures.

Jan'ry.	J. W. Smith, on acc't shelving, \$2,000 00		
	Wages \$25, postage 12c,	25 12	
		<hr/>	\$2,025 12
Feb'y.	Rent, house in Bond-street,		275 00
March.	Salary superintendent, 6 mo.,. \$1,250 00		
	G. T. Pierce, & Co., account heat- ing and ventilating,	700 00	
		<hr/>	1,950 00
April.	Premiums for insurance books, \$148 12		
	Expenses at new building, fuel, &c.,	94 25	
	Expenses in part of removal, .	44 00	
	Repairs Bond-street house, . . .	11 50	
	Books bought in Boston, freight &c.,	849 89	
	Wages, packing boxes, &c., . . .	90 50	
	Remittance to Messrs. Baring, Brother & Co., on credit in favor Mr. Cogswell,	11,218 89	
		<hr/>	17,457 25
May.	Rent, Bond-street,	\$275 00	
	Remittance, Baring, Br. & Co., as before,	4,390 00	
	G. Pierce & Co., heating appa- ratus,	284 50	
		<hr/>	4,949 50
June.	Salary to superintendent, 3 months,	\$625 00	
	Higgs, painting,	600 00	
	Amount due Mr. Cogswell for advance in purchases last year,	5,425 64	
		<hr/>	6,650 64
August.	Advanced Mr. Cogswell on account of re- cent purchases of books, . . .	\$2,500 00	
	Balance on building contract, .	5,220 90	

	Fuel,	\$246 88	
	Labor in new building,	36 00	
	Assistant librarians, 2 months,	166 66	
	Wages to porter, 4 months, ..	100 00	
		<hr/>	\$8,270 53
Sept.	Wichersham, railing in library,	\$509 10	
	Removing books from Bond-		
	street,	318 93	
	Salary to superintendent, 3		
	months,	625 00	
		<hr/>	1,453 05
October.	Iron standards in library room,	\$78 00	
	Assistant librarians, 2 months,	166 64	
		<hr/>	244 64
Novem.	Assistant librarians (three),		
	1 month,	\$124 33	
	Wages to porter, 3 months, ..	75 00	
	Cartage and labor, removal, .	74 25	
		<hr/>	273 58
Decem.	Salary to superintendent to		
	28th,	\$625 00	
	Assistant librarians (three), 1		
	month,	124 98	
	Goodhue & Co., freights and		
	shipping expenses,	795 86	
	Premiums fire insurance,	483 51	
	Labor in new building,	63 63	
	Fuel,	168 31	
	Printing notices,	3 20	
	Grate, \$11.50 ; iron shutters,		
	\$28,	39 50	
		<hr/>	2,303 99
			<hr/>
			\$45,853 30
			<hr/>

The excess of expenditures, \$210.18, is to be made up from receipts since 31st December.

There are no arrears of interest unpaid on the investments. There are no outstanding claims against the institution, excepting an unadjusted claim of the architect, to whom there is due \$300, but he has declined to receive it at present.

The account of Mr. Cogswell, owing to his occupation in preparing to open the library, is not yet adjusted ; and he has made purchases of books in Europe, beyond the moneys advanced to him, about \$4500. This amount should be added to that in the account of our property, to shew the expenditure in books, making a total of this investment of \$9600, exclusive of certain accounts of freight and shipping charges carried into the account of our yearly expenses.

The yearly income of the institution for the coming year is \$12,625.

The yearly expenditure, probably to be incurred, will be as follows :

Superintendent and three assistant librarians,....	\$4,000 00
Premiums of fire insurance and fuel, about.....	1,500 00
Porters wages, water tax, &c., about	500 00
	<hr/>
	\$6,000 00
Amount of our over expenditure,.....	210 18
Applicable to payment of claim above mentioned, and to increase of library,.....	6,414 82
	<hr/>
	<u>\$12,625 00</u>

It is also to be noticed that the price of the site of the building, chargeable on the \$205,000, is not yet paid out of it, and must be taken into view as so much applicable to the first establishing of the library, and supplying it with books, when the proper expenditure thereof shall be required. This amount, \$25,000, with the expenditure for books hitherto, made \$91,500, in all \$116,500, falls short of the \$120,000 appropriated by the will and charter

for this purpose ; unless, as is considered proper, a part of the amount expended in the equipment of the library be charged on the latter fund.

DANIEL LORD, *Treasurer.*

TO WASHINGTON IRVING, ESQ.,

President of the Trustees of the Astor Library.

